

Manure Management Task Force Madison Public Information Session 11-2 pm

Task Force Members: Steve Born – Need to be Americas manure management land. This is a listening session to recommend to DATCP and DNR to improve manure management.

Rebecca Power – Please suggest ways to have both agriculture and clean water

Lisa Connely

Dana Cook

Kevin Connors

Attendance: 25 people present

Staff Presentation: Jim presents why the task force is meeting and their recommendations. Representation is diverse. A final meeting in Jan. will send to agencies in Feb.

65% of the operations deal with semi solid manure. Minimize runoff and leaching losses we will not have many problems. One objective is to minimize the cost of moving manure, less water. Winter applications provide a less busy time, less odor, less double handling, less compaction, and better access to fields. However, we can have higher losses.

Haulers spread 1/3 of the manure is WI. This manure is used by 15% of the farmers.

Tom Bauman said the Feb. and March had the most problems. 52 events - Some of the 7 WPDES operations caused the problems. 39 operations were smaller, 4 unknown. Largest cause was land spreading of manure. Frozen and snow covered ground the main problem. 60% were liquid manure. 25% solid manure caused the problem. 27 operators, 7 haulers were involved in the incidence, 6 unspecified – DNR documented these events. A runoff event is when the manure does not stay where it is applied. DNR may find these events through complaints, inspections, and producer notification. This information was compiled from fragments of data and is a recommendation to improve the data collection. This information is from July 2004 to June 2005. We are unsure why this many events this year, perhaps more liquid handling systems.

Water quality impacts being researched with Pioneer Farm, Discovery Farm, and UW component research. Weirs collect water for full environmental impact monitoring looking at agricultural systems. Looking at P delivery and winter runoff events at Pioneer farm showed big loads. Discovery Farms also showed specific conditions, not dates, which are risky. Fields that drain internally we have less runoff risk, but more groundwater could be contaminated. Storage may reduce the risk but shorten the

application window. UW is involved in runoff research. 20 crop years of data, range of soils, tillage, and crops.

Well compensation does not allow reimbursement for well reconstruction if contaminated by manure.

We are looking for feasibility for economics and protection.

The task force recommends that the research be coordinated. Document future priorities and document on going research better. DNR and DATCP need to investigate incidences together and collect the information to help improve problems.

What options for full manure storage – maybe regional digesters. Dane Co. will be doing a feasibility study.

Identify areas that are risky through conservation planning.

Oregon has a manure spreading index and web site to get a manure report.

Perhaps we should have a notification program of soil conditions and weather.

NM planning is extremely important. P based plans are the most effective way to do this.

Emergency response plan, avoid high risk areas and conditions.

20% ? of incidences were released by never to the water. Important to respond to accidents and have a plan. Manitowoc and Kewaunee County are providing guidelines for winter applications and who to call for emergencies. Munson asked if this is shared with all counties in UWEX offices. We do not know. This plans are the county and UW.

Expand well compensation. Maybe provide for well replacement.

Limited enforcement should be allowed for those doing a good job of planning if they have plans and superior environmental protection.

Recommendations

- Increase spreading plans, hauling procedures and emergency response plans – should plans be mandatory or not?
- Improve data collection for events
- Improve research efforts and coordination
- Develop manure spreading advisory and notification system
- Increase cost sharing for NM planning
- Improve emergency response with focus on farmer planning
- License or certify manure haulers
- Well compensation for manure contamination
- Pilot test limited enforcement

We are taking comments until Dec. 21, 2005.

Oral Comments

1. Dan Munson – Dairy farmer Boardhead, WI. Need to be proactive. Require written emergency plan at least for all WPDES. Require similar to WPDES of were to apply for everyone annually. Those with own equipment should be trained.
2. Dawn Haag – Badgerland Farm Credit. Consider cost. Need equitable distribution of funds. Impact of farm financial. What about the effect on land. How will you educate producers? Need to get information out. Steve – we need to improve outreach and is noted. These investments need to be targeted for water quality improvement and is softly stated in the recommendation. Rebecca – What recommendations are problems? The cost of manure storage. Some counties pay others do not. Born – the cost factor is critical for storage and NM. Should we explore a sir-charge on milk? \$.16 cwt = \$45 million per year???? How can we finance this? Born. Yes to milk surcharge. WQ is for everyone.
3. Mike Weller – Pork Producers and cattle and grain operation. This is the full employment act for the next decade. This is a tremendous under taking. You are missing the value of manure to WI agriculture. We need to educate the public manure value. Education and incentives should be the focus. Not further unfunded mandates. Funding is not available and not a public priority. How do we change that? A sir charge on milk does not address the public. Maybe we have over blown this issue. How do we get the public interested? We would have more P runoff without animal agriculture. The public needs to understand this issue. P based plans are expensive to implement. Some of the Discovery farms that are steep have very little P being delivered in WI. Why do some lands have more runoff? We need these answers. What about reporting – farmers wonder why municipalities can have events with little reporting. How can raw sewage be dumped into lakes and streams. Why? A manure advisory system makes sense, but farmers are busy people. Be careful not to cry wolf too often or not listened to. We support statewide voluntary training programs. We need to coordinate research with well rounded group with farmers. It is an exhausting report to understand. Born. If you live in the Milwaukee areas you would no it is in the press. This is a problem we all share. You would rather rely on voluntary action. Will the agricultural groups support a winter spreading plan lead by the agricultural sector? YES we should try it. We should exhaust this possibility before moving to regulatory action.
4. Tony Ends – farms on small scaled. Chickens, goats, turkeys, markets fresh vegetable. Manure is essential for the soils that are depleted by crop production. Churches center for land and people he works for. Earth steward ship and economic justice for farmers small and mid size. On behalf of western Rock Co. and 25 families in rural neighborhood. Two houses approaching well

contamination. Worried about health risks from large liquid manure applications. DNR has no provisions for compensating well contamination fowed by runoff. DNR's recourse is to have the victim dig a new well. Many are retired farmers. The land is their retirement and they can not sell if the well is contaminated. He relies entirely on manure for fertilizer. This is the best management, but we have fractured bedrock and we have rising nitrate levels. P levels on some industrial farms exceed 100 PPM. It would take 20 years to draw that down. Help our rural citizens to better handle nitrate. We need all uses of hoses clamps and pumps along ditches, roads, and creeks should be tightly regulated, replacement schedules. This operator had a 30,000 gallon spill. Require no winter applications and enforce. If no allocation of staff or funding, then we need to promote forms of agricultural that do not pose risks. Bond and train manure applicators. Contamination will result in bond forfeiture. Need sufficient acres, realistic crop yields, rest land, and review records annually. Manure = to people equiv. We need to protect health and safety with the help from the government. We need to persuade law makers to do the right thing. No ill will against any farmer or scale, they have my sympathies and prayers. They made their choice as I have. Our state needs to choose to protect the health of our people.

5. Denny Caniff – River alliance of WI. Good work. We need farmers because we all eat and enjoy the landscape. We need to protect rivers and lakes. Winter spreading plans should be promoted. What are we requiring and of whom? How can we enforce? How can we pay? Winter spreading plans make sense inside a NM plan. Some spills in summer. The LWRM plans help to target this on priority farms. These farms are problematic and have the counties attention. Slope, tillage, conservation, and ID vulnerable areas should be looked at. Emergency response plans sound good. This makes sense for every farm and those especially with violations. This may also give incentives to neighbors. “An ounce of prevention....” NM plans adoption rates is low. CNMPS cost is really high. Let’s start with priority farms. 20% of the farms cause 80% of the problems. Funding – Why should be the public pay for business expenses? Social contract with farmers and public to sustain agricultural, the rest of the state will pay. We have accepted 1 billion dollars with use value tax incentives. It may be time to ask farmer to pay. In Brown Co. they have a \$.50 per acre = \$8million/yr statewide for NPS rules. \$.50/ac would be \$100/yr for 200 acre farm. Limited enforcement – like green tier, could reduce regulation. You should pilot this with PDPW or MMB in a watershed. P would be the measure, reduce in soil and water.

Flipped tape around here.

6. Farren Havens – Wisconsin Agribusiness Council. We agree with these ideas. Bluemounds farms. Our agriculture provides food. We need to feed 150-175 people per farm now, not 20 people. We pay \$.10/\$1.00 for food. US citizens think we need cheap food. The public should have to help pay for this. We are good conservationists and want to be known as such. When farmers and

environment both win, that's conservation, *Aldo Leopold*. Farmers need to be careful where they spread. Hauling makes you no money. Use common sense and help farmers make money. Born. Sounds like you want cost share for legislature. How would you do it? All of us need to pay the price and probably through GPR dollars. We all need to equally share. Power. What recommendations do you think pose a significant risk to agriculture? If it causes more labor, or more money it poses a risk. Apply them so farmers do not pay to meet. We do not have the research to know what is going on. We need to spread manure on CRP land.

7. Jack Meffert – Waunakee Farmer, Dane Co Farm Bureau, FS Board. FS fertilizer sales have been reduced because of NM. Renters and these rules will make implementation difficult. We can't increase the cost of our product. Don't pass more costs to us. Lisa. Would the FB be willing to help educate? Yes 18th of Jan. Winter Hauling and we are sending out the notices.
8. Eric Birshbach – Crop Consultant – 15 to 20 farmers. I help the farmers find the best places to put manure. The emergency response should be part of the NM plans. Will ask the farmer - What are you going to do if there is a spill? What is DNR going to expect us to do? This will all happen slowly. Cost sharing is great. NM plans need to be part of CNMP to get cost shared by NRCS. An out of state company developed, and I am unsure if this will achieve anything except spending \$10,000. Not a good use of tax dollars. I suggest that we put an extra charge on a trout stamp to keep water clean, or duck stamp. Born. Crop consultants? WAPAC helps educate us. Certified through ASA mostly. Most have 4 year degrees or graduate degrees with 10 yrs plus experience. Born. If haulers are a diminishing business, what about manure hauling protocol beyond education within their group? The pesticide applicator program model should be used for farmers and haulers. Put focus on farmer for spills and emergencies. Walley. What size farms? 126 acres to 2500 acres 15 to 20 farms. Power. What #1 thing? Implement emergency response plan. Winter spreading is a component of NM plan. More education to farmers of what to do will help. Lisa. Are the plans a financial benefit to farmers, can they afford them? IF everyone wants one, do we have enough planners? The plans are time consuming. We need to become better computer educated to provide spreading maps. Farmers may make money if they credit the manure. Must take into account hauling manure down the road. Townships don't like hauling anytime. We need to get the water out of manure. Move a dryer product. Maybe compensate farmers for taking liquid out of manure. Maybe help pay for digesters. Dana. How many acres can you take on? Takes longer in drift less. 8,000-20,000 acres per person.
9. Doug Bach – WI Association of Lakes and engineer for manure storage. Funding should be distributed using environmental markets. Sulfur dioxide has trading of pollution credits and show great reduction. Carbon sequestering should also be looked at for funding. Maybe if we return properties to wetlands you could sell these credits as a commodity. Born. We did talk about watershed budgets for P.

This could be part of the pilot. This effort should come from the grass roots.
Thank you this could help fund. We also recommended DNR adopt P standards.

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